

From: [REDACTED]
To: [commissionstreamlining](#)
Subject: Please support keeping the Commission on the Environment as a Governance Body
Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 11:57:07 AM

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Commissioners Streamlining Task Force,

The Commission Streamlining Task Force's recommendation to downgrade the Commission on the Environment to advisory status - and after 3 years to eliminate it altogether - is damaging to San Francisco's reputation as a climate leader, to say nothing of the actual health and safety of City residents.

The Commission on the Environment promotes environmental justice by directing funding and programs to communities most impacted by pollution and climate change; it strengthens workforce development by investing in youth climate internships and green jobs; it provides residents a formal platform to speak out and influence policy. These are just some of its functions.

Now more than ever, the world needs climate leadership from local governments - not heads in the sand. Drastic cuts to the SF Environment Department in the recent 2-year budget revealed an ominous willingness to ignore action to prevent the ever-increasing severity of climate disasters. Gutting and cutting the Department's oversight body only reinforces this impression. It will not streamline government - it will make it harder for the City to keep its focus on eliminating the cause of global warming. Other departments are each much more focused on their primary mission; it is SFE alone, directed by the Commission, whose mission is to reduce emissions citywide and protect our climate.

As a leader in the natural lands sector in San Francisco, my livelihood and those of my colleagues has benefited from the Healthy Ecosystems chapter in the Climate Action Plan. We are seeing real results with an increase in biodiversity and planting native plants grown right here in SF by organizations like Sutro Stewards, Nature in the City, Literacy for Environmental Justice and more. We employ youth and create opportunities for residents to connect with nature via volunteer programs and educational hikes. We work with SFE on the implementation of the Climate Action Plan and gutting this department and this plan would adversely effect our day to day work.

The City should be investing more money into climate action, not less. SFE needs more resources, not less. We need the commission on the environment, the SF Environment department and the Climate Action Plan they are in charge of enacting.

Thank you.

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